

Gina Sheets

Each day is a new day. Usually, I see each day as a new beginning or a new start. Mrs. Gina Sheets thinks of each day as a continuation of the following. Mrs. Sheets currently lives in Liberia. Whereas most people know, their people have been traumatized by twenty-four years of civil war and the virus, Ebola. Mrs. Sheets teaches Agricultural classes at a Christian college in Liberia. She works with people who have very little and teaches them to farm and to grow crops, fruits, and vegetables. She takes what she learned in Indiana and teaches grown adults and students about Agriculture. Also, Mrs. Sheets had many different important jobs in Indiana such as the Director of Indiana State Department of Agriculture.

Before Mrs. Sheets moved halfway across the world she lived here in Indiana. When she was younger, she never thought of herself going in to the field of Agriculture. "Growing up in rural Indiana should give everyone an appreciation of agriculture," she wrote. "While I did not grow up on a farm, nor did I go to school where there was a FFA program, I valued farming but never did I see myself as engaged in agriculture as I am now." After graduating from college, Mrs. Sheets did not go straight into Agriculture. She started off as a major retailer as a buyer. Mrs. Sheets moved back to her hometown Frankfort, IN where Mr. Travis Sheets, her husband, and herself owned several small businesses. Then, they soon went into the field of economic development. She spent ten years on the local level and four years with the State Department of Agriculture. In the year of 2000, Mrs. Sheets and Mr. Sheets owned a 77-acer farm in Clinton County. They grew row crops and raised livestock, everything from pasture beef, chickens, turkeys, ducks, rainbow trout, and exotic animals (raised bears, sloths, parrots, tortoises, cougars and reptiles).

Mrs. Sheets have lived in Liberia for about three years and as volunteers for the Hope in the Harvest Mission. “The purpose of Hope in the Harvest Missions is to seek to cultivate Christ’s hope in underdeveloped and impoverished areas of the world through agricultural and personal transformation. Building on borrowed talent, we seek to impact attitudes and practices that will promote the economic and social well-being of individuals, from a conviction that a changed life results from a Christ-changed heart” (Hope in the Harvest Mission International). As a volunteer of the Hope in the Harvest Mission, Mrs. Sheets has four main jobs. First, she is the Vice President of Administration at the Christian college, where she manages staff and works with government officials, students, and community leaders. Second, she teaches students Agriculture class. Third, Mrs. Sheets works with people in Liberia, helping them develop business plans. Finally, she works with tribal people grow crops for their families and grow crop to sell in farmer’s markets.

This shows that Mrs. Sheets plays a big part in people’s lives. Her story doesn’t stop there; they are in the process of building a three-story agriculture center on the college campus. All of this truly shows that Mrs. Sheets is a Hoosier Heroine because she willing to help the community she grew up in, her country, and the world.